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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 295. APRIL, 1931.

WAY—TRUTH—LIFE.

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."—John xiv. 6.

CONTENTS;

Notes and News	Front Page	Obituaries	41
Late Rev. A. Gordon	38	Bodel-Mackenzie Fund	42
Domestic Mission	40	Review	43
Women's League	41	Reports	43

NOTES AND NEWS.

In the March number we were only able to insert the notice of the death of our great leader, the Rev. Principal Gordon. Words written in tribute elsewhere, to a patriot who has recently passed away, might well be applied to Alexander Gordon.

"His spirit remains with us to inspire, his example to stimulate and guide. He is not gone from us, though we lose sight of the body of the man we loved. May his dear ones feel the comfort of his living presence, for the so-called dead do not die; they only change their outer encasement. So we will not say "Good-bye," save in the real meaning: "God be with you," as He is.

We are in receipt of a letter from the Rev. J. A. Kelly, written in London, where he was joining the Cunarder—"Laconia" for a three weeks' cruise taking in order—Madeira, Santa Cruz, Las Palmas, Casablanca, Gibraltar, Tangier. Malaga, Barcelona, and Algiers. Mr. Kelly caught a chill at the Remonstrant Synod in December, and desires to throw off the effects of it, and under advice, is taking this cruise.

In a previous letter Mr. Kelly conveyed Mr. Gordon's good wishes, offering to contribute to the magazine. Such contributions would have been very valuable; but, it was not to be.

Mr. Kelly received many touching letters of appreciation of our late distinguished friend.

A letter of apology for absence at the funeral was received from the Very Rev. Principal Paul, D.D., saying how sorry he was that an engagement of great importance prevented him attending the funeral, as he had much wanted to do, adding a line or two of a congratulatory nature about A.G. and the Church (N.S.P.) that he adorned. The Very Rev. Dr. John McMillan, Chairman of the Presbyterian Historial Society, gave an address at the funeral, and wrote afterwards saying how glad he was to honour his dear friend and to do so in the Church where Dr. Montgomery ministered so ably for 56 years.

* * *

We have also in the present number to note the passing of the Rev. Christopher Street, M.A, LL.B., whose father's ministry left such a deep impression in Ulster, and who himself was one of the most distinguished of Unitarian ministers in England. Many of us have cause to be grateful to Mr. Street, for kindly personal interest.

* * *

When the news of Mr. Gordon's death was received on the morning of Sunday, Feb. 22nd, mention was made in the pulpits, and at short notice the services at Greyabbey and Mountpottinger were changed into memorial services. All our churches joined either on that or the following Sunday in commemoration. At the funeral at Dunmurry, on February 23rd, the lesson was read by the Clerk of Synod (Rev. G. J. Slipper), and prayer was offered by the Moderator (Rev. J. Barron). Very Rev. Dr. McMillan and Rev. J. A. Kelly gave addresses, the latter also concluding the service at the grave.

* * *

The destruction by fire of the handsome Congregational Church in Donegall Street calls forth sympathy for the pastor and the members, and the Methodist Church, Donegall Square, has been offered as accommodation for any requirements. The Non-Subscribing

Presbyterian Church, we are sure, is equally ready to give neighbourly help in any way which may be useful and acceptable.

* * *

As the depression in trade is very acute, and there is no immediate urgency, the appeal on behalf of the Montgomery Memorial Fund, is not being pressed. At the same time, it should be kept in mind, for the cause to which the Fund is to be devoted is always urgent, viz:—the endowment of beds either in the Children's Hospital or the R.V.H.

* * *

Because of the lack of space any further appreciations of the Rev. Alex. Gordon are being held over until next month.

Rev. ALEXANDER GORDON, M.A.

BELFAST. FIRST CHURCH. A Memorial Service for the late Rev. Alexander Gordon, M.A., was held on Sunday morning, March 1st, in the First Church, conducted by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A. In the course of the sermon Mr. Cross emphasised, in accordance with the Epistle to the Ephesians, the need which the Christian Church had for men of different types and varied endowment. In addition to the apostles, evangelists and pastors there were the teachers. These also fulfilled an indispensable function and one needed only to refer to such figures as Augustine, Aquinas. Wycliffe, Tyndale. Erasmas, Luther, and Calvin to realise the dominating role played by scholars and teachers in the history of Christianity. It was to teaching Mr. Gordon was called and appreciation was expressed of the notable contributions he had made through a long life to the knowledge of Church history and biography, and of the honour in which he was held for his tireless labours and research far beyond the borders of his own household and faith.

Special reference was made to Mr. Gordon's Ministry at the First Church from 1877, when he became colleague to the Rev. John Scott Porter, till 1890, when he entered on the Principalship of the Unitarian College, Manchester. It was during that period that evening services were started, the first Harvest Festival held, and the Central Hall built, as a sequel to the Centennial celebration of the opening of the present "Meeting House" in 1783. A debt of gratitude was owed to Mr. Gordon's memory for these events and developments in their congregational history, as well as for his compilation of the historic memorials of the First Church.

The Te Deum and "Blessed are the Departed" were rendered by the choir, and Chopin's Funeral March was played at the end of the service.

In the evening a rendering of Spohr's "Last Judgment" was given by Mr. Albert Taylor, A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., Organist, and the Choir, at a Special Musical Service.

Recollections of A.G.

I entered as a student of the Unitarian Home Missionary College in October, 1889, under three tutors at a transition period in the history of the College. Three months later in January, 1890, we students came under the tuition of the Rev. Alexr. Gordon as principal—a change largely due to his initiative. It was characteristic of him on entering on his duties that he made no spectacular display of his advent as head of the College by speedily settling down to tutorial work, and thus early impressed students with his desire to test and to know his men. It was an auspicious beginning for the men he had to mould early learnt to appreciate his fitness for the task and to respect him for his sincere confidence in the future of the College. The effect of his first contact with them was sustained throughout his long and honourable connection as head, and even afterwards continued to the end of his long career. He was invariably kind and considerate to the men under his charge, but encouraged no fussy familiarity calculated to find his blind side. He was too big a man to encourage favourites. He had come there "to make the College go." How well he succeeded the whole Church connection soon learnt to know. He never impressed one as looking for extraordinary scholars among his students. He had an enormous capacity for concentration for discipline, for taking pains and was wise enough to encourage promise and to appreciate capacity in immature material. Alexr. Gordon had a profound contempt for the presumptuous and the righteous over much, and the lash of his sardonic humour not seldom caused resentment; but at the same time was beyond the ordinary gentle to the unassuming and was an inspirer of confidence. In tutorial work he was a disciplinarian, but avoided irritating scenes. Once a pupil, deemed somewhat histrionic and capable of assuming tragic faces which amused his fellows, made rather undignified faces, A.G. feeling that somewhat unusual was toward, suddenly looked up, saw the contortions, and simply said, "Don't be

silly, Mr. so and so "—so the situation was saved and the actor looked foolish. As Principal of an Institution Mr. Gordon had an exalted ideal of "what constituted a College." He postulated on a public occasion the question, "what makes a College?" A series of questions reeled off one after another: "Is it the distinguished visitors? Is it academical distinction connected with it? Do its professors make a College?" "No, certainly not. It is the students that make a College what it is and no other being or thing." That he spent his time to make the College of which he was Principal a real institution preparatory for the ministry of religion is to the present writer one among the other distinctions for which he is to-day famous. Mr. Gordon's interest in his students did not cease with the end of their College course. When his counsel was sought it was freely, even religiously given with a mass of detail which could not fail to better his correspondents. His long and varied experience, his distinction in historical reseach, his devotion to Non-conformist traditions, his unwearied toil for the churches of which he was a distinguished member, and particularly his love for the Presbyterian tradition makes his name a household word in the annals of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. D. J. WILLIAMS.

By the courtesy of the editor, and at his request, I write as an old student of Mr. Gordon's in Belfast and at U.H.M. College, Manchester. At first I thought he was hard to please, but, on closer aquaintance, found out that he was by no means unreasonable. I have no fault to find with Mr, Gordon's criticisms upon my work at College which I considered fair, and conveyed in a manner not likely to hurt one's feelings. Some teachers do not seem to care whether their pupils follow them or not. It was not so however with Mr. Gordon who was painstaking and would wait patiently until he got the word that best brought out the meaning of the passage under translation. I formed the impression that he was thorough in all that he did and liked his students to be the same. He could not bear to see work done in a careless, slovenly manner, but the student who was conscientious would receive help and encouragement from one who appreciated good work well done each day. If Mr. Gordon's pupils are not punctual in all the relations of life, it is not the fault of their teacher who was noted for his punctuality. I have found his articles in the Christian life both interesting and instructive, and he certainly enlivened our meetings by his ready wit and humorous remarks. By his death our Church is decidedly poorer, and a useful member of society has gone from our midst.

J. A. MISKIMMIN.

Rev. A. GORDON, M.A.

As one of the students who entered Summerville when it was opened as a College in 1905 with Mr. Gordon as its first Principal, I desire to express my appreciation of his great ability as a teacher and bear testimony to the reverent affection in which he was held by all the students. We respected him for his learning and the patience he displayed in trying to implant knowledge in what were not always fertile minds; but we loved him for his thoughtful consideration and readiness to help the lame dog over a stile. In his charity he carried out the gospel injunction "let not the left hand know what the right hand doeth;" and if it were possible to catalogue all the gifts, all the good acts, all the wise counsel he bestowed we would have to write at the end "here is a man after God's own heart." He was a lover of Ireland and the Irish people, possibly that might account for some of the kindness shown to the Irish students who went over to Manchester to study under him; but whatever the nationality, circumstance, or ability, no student of his but will recall personal kindness and consideration. So with his students it is not only sorrow at the death of a great scholar, a gifted teacher and a denominational leader, but a deep sense of personal loss in the passing of one whose influence was, and is still, a power for good among those who were brought into close contact with him in the life of the College. In Mr. Gordon's death the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland has lost one of its ablest leaders and most loyal supporters —"we shall not soon see his like again"—but he being dead yet speaketh of light and learning, faith and friendship. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, even so saith the spirit, for they rest from their labours and their works do follow them." T.M.

Donations to the Subsidy Fund will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Rev. G. J. Slipper, Newry. The debt has been reduced by half, let us hope that it will soon be cleared off altogether.

MOUNTPOTTINGER

(By the Moderator)

The Moderator visited Mountpottinger Congregation on March 1st, arriving in time to give the address, having travelled by the B.O.C. car, and on entering the pulpit was greeted with the singing of the hymn, "Art thou weary?" There is a sort of home feeling about this Church, something reposeful and conducive to devotion. Adjoining the church is a handsome and commodious hall, presented by Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence, as a memorial to his niece, who was wife of the minister about thirty years ago. The people are very hearty and take great pride and interest in their church, having among them members who take a leading part in the life of the denomination. Mountpottinger has the good fortune to possess a highly qualfied minister in the Rev. J. H. Ewbank, B.A., B.D., and in having Mrs. Ewbank whose attractiveness as a preacher and a worker, are becoming well known in our community. The electric light is a very great improvement; but, it has meant expense, as indeed other matters also have done, and the congregation is to be highly commended for their earnest endeavours which have resulted in the debt now being considerably reduced. Situated at a centre whose streets converge like the spokes of a wheel. the building in itself is always a silent witness to the faith, while the Wayside Pulpit catches the eye of thousands who pass daily.

BELFAST DOMESTIC MISSION.

The Annual Sermons were preached on Sunday, March 8th, 1931, by the Rev. T. M. Falconer, B.Litt., at the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, in the morning, and at All Soul's, Elmwood Avenue, in the evening. The morning address was based on the text from Acts 8—verse 30 & 31—"Understandeth thou what thou readest?" And he said "How can I, except some man should guide me."

"Everyone recognises," said the preacher, "that the task before the churches is incredibly difficult." Repudiating with vigour the recent doleful statements of orthodox churchmen Mr. Falconer proceeded to develop on hopeful lines a gospel of hope. Almost all the great reforms had been instituted by deeply religious people of high moral character and were being carried out by people of a similar type. Though to-day we pride ourselves on the power of education, we should not forget that it was the church, through Robert Raikes, which first opened the eyes of the country to the religious needs of the children. And the work of the church was not finished and Unitarians must carry on the noble traditions of their forbears in the work of social welfare.

In the evening the story of the Good Samaritan was developed in such a manner as to show the value of service. Not creed, not ritual, but service is what God requires of man, said Mr. Falconer Service is the first test of every religion and every nation. Everything in the mighty universe of God, by its service shows its worth. In the home where love is the root of mutual service, in the business life where success depends upon the spirit of sympathy and mutual service, in civic life where loyal citizens give of their best in social service, so in the church is service, spiritual service, the important thing. "Not what we do but the spirit in which we do it" should be the keynote of religion. Mr. Falconer carried on his appeal for Public Service at the Annual Meeting on Monday evening, at 8 p.m., in the Central Hall. Miss Armstrong, President of the Ulster District Branch of the Unitarian Women's League occupied the chair and Mr. R. M. Laird moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Falconer for preaching the Annual Sermons and attending the Annual Meeting. Rev. S. P. Whitehouse seconded the resolution and in replying Mr. Falconer commented very favourably on the fine spirit of fellowship among the mission members and paid a hearty tribute to the patient, self-sacrificing work of the voluntary workers at the mission. He concluded by saying that no one could live a full and complete life without religion, one expression of which was social service.

The Annual Reports were read by the Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. R. Jackson, the Financial Statement was circulated among those present and Mr. Norman Kirkham read his Annual Report, putting the position in a nutshell when he said —"while we are not a wealthy mission, we are holding up a lofty banner and in influencing a few lives feel we are doing something of importance."

Special reference was made to the long years af voluntary service of Miss Florence Malcolm who, although not severing her connection with the mission, resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of the Ladies' Committee in October.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

ULSTER DISTRICT.—The Annual Meeting of the above was held on Friday, March 20th, at the Belfast Domestic Mission, Stanhope Street, when Mrs. Eustace Thompson was elected President for the year 1931, Miss Armstrong, Vice-President, and Miss Eileen Andrews, Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treas. The Publications and Publicity Secretaryships were again allotted to Mrs. E. R. Jackson. A service was conducted by Mrs. Eustace Thompson in the Mission Church prior to the meeting, Mrs. Leslie Hay officiating at the organ.

BALLYCLARE BRANCH.—The Annual meeting of this branch was held on the 11th February. Before the business part of the meeting was commenced a vote of sympathy to Mrs. Scott on the death of her husband was passed in silence. The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer her statement of accounts for the past year. Our Treasurer must possess a chip of the "Philosopher's Stone" for in spite of adverse times the balance is still on the right side. Needless to say she was unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. The Secretary and President were also re-elected and a vote of thanks was passed to the Secretary for the capable and unobstrusive way she discharges her duties. Miss Harson kindly provided tea and at our March meeting we were hospitably entertained by Mrs. Bingham at her own residence. It was decided to hold a Sale of Work in the Autumn to help minimise the debt on the Manse.

MOUNTPOTTINGER.—On Monday, February 9, an interesting talk was given by Mrs. Byrne. In a most delightful manner, she described her holidays to the Pyrenees, during the Summer, 1930. Our speaker related many pleasant incidents during her visit and spoke of the kind hospitality of the people. Mrs. Ewbank presided and expressed the appreciation of herself and the members to Mrs. Byrne for her kindness in coming again this year and giving another account of her holiday experience. On Monday, March 9th, our branch closed the Winter's Monthly Meetings by holding a "Kitchen Shower" (Sale of articles suitable for the Cooking Kitchen). This was followed by a little Social, an enjoyable programme had been arranged by Mrs. Ewbank. Mrs. John Allen who won the Minature Cup at Larne Competition, recently held, and Elsa Orr rendered very pleasing songs, Miss Ashworth, A L.C.M., acted as accompanist and also executed two pianoforte solos in her usual perfect style. We were fortunate in having Miss Betty Norman, first-prize winner in the Belfast Competition held during February; she is a very clever elocutionist and very good naturedly responded to the many requests. We are ever indebted to Miss Elsa Orr for so kindly bringing this talented Artiste whose efforts were thoroughly appreciated by those present. Mrs. Ewbank, Branch President, thanked the Artistes for their kindness in coming and giving us such a very pleasant evening.

THE LEAGUE OF YOUTH.

The Rev. P. Godding's Appeal

Those of you who are too cautious to join this movement yet, then at least watch it. Its aim is to encourage the "Spirit of Youth" in all our churches. The "Spirit of Youth" organised and well supported will add much real enthusiasm, life, energy, hope, to our churches and their activities. It means the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven. To attend one of the meetings of the League is a joy in itself. Naturally we want the movement to spread. We want more members and quickly. Some churches are not even yet represented. There should at least be two or three members from every church. A local secretary in each congregation is needed.

OBITUARIES.

Mr. Samuel Magill, Larne.

Mr. Samuel Magill was a well known and highly respected Non-Subscribing Presbyterian, and in days gone by attended the Church meetings as a representative of Larne and Kilwaughter congregation. Mr. Magiil was a native of Kilwaughter and at thirteen started his apprenticeship to the drapery business in Larne. For over sixty years he remained in the same shop becoming senior partner of the firm of Magill and Nelson. Mr. Magill was probably the best known resident in Larne, and took a prominent part in the affairs of the town, being ex-Chairman of the Urban Council. Mr. Magill leaves a widow, three daughters and a son. The latter, Dr. Ivan Magill, is a distinguished medical man in England. Two daughters are married to Irish medical men in England, while the eldest is Mrs. Hall Common, of Larne Harbour. One son, Lieut. Herbert Magill, fell

in the war, with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was a foundation member of Masonic Lodge 615, and a Past Provincial Officer of over half-a-century's standing. Ed.

Mrs. Samuel Robinson, Clough.

By the sudden death on Feb. 7th. of Mrs. Samuel Robinson, Summerhill, Co. Down, the wife of the respected treasurer of the church at Clough, the cause has lost one of its deeply attached and interested members, who when the occasion arose was ever ready with her help in organising schemes for the welfare of the church. For some time she had been prevented through ill health from taking an active part in the ife of the church, but her interest in all its affairs was maintained till the end and was a constant inspiration and encouragement to her husband and family in maintaining their active interest in the cause she had so much at heart. The Rev. James Shaw Brown officiated at the interment which was attended by a large number of relatives and friends.

The Rev. C. J. Street

The Rev. C. J. Street, M.A., LL.B., passed away suddenly on Wednesday, Feb. 11th, while he and Mrs. Street were on a visit to London. After attending a meeting at Essex Hall, Mr. Street became ill on his way back to his hotel, and subsequently succumbed to heart attack. The funeral took place at the Crematorium, Golders Green, London. Mr. Street was the son of the Rev. James Christopher Street, and was born at Nottingham, November 23rd, 1853. Mr Street stood in the foremost rank of Unitarian ministers. He held several ministries, the more outstanding being Bank Street, Bolton, and Upper Chapel and Attercliffe, Sheffield, of which he was Emeritus from 1920. He rendered very great services to the denomination, and many ministers realised that in him they had an understanding and sympathetic friend, who could give valuable help, through his influence, in times of need and adversity.

Mr. Johnston Corry.

We regret also the death of Mr. Johnston Corry, of Saul, honoured head of a household, one of the most industrious of Lecale farmers, and almost the last survivor of a band of brothers, who used to be identified with business interests in the town and district. At the funeral to Stream-street churchyard on Tuesday, the officiating clergy being Revs. J. Shaw Brown and R. M'Elney, tribute was paid by sorrowing friends to the memory of a man void of pretence, straight and kind-hearted. The late Mr. Johnston Corry was a staunch supporter of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian since its inception. J.U.

The Very Rev. Dr. Lowe.

We regret to announce the sudden death on March 18th, of the Very Rev. Dr. Lowe, ex-Moderator and Senior Clerk of the General Assembly. Dr. Lowe attended the funeral of Principal Gordon. The Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church sent a message of sympathy to the Clerk of the General Assembly.

Mrs. W. J. Hill.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Mrs. W. J. Hill, wife of Capt. Hill, Drumbroneth House, Dromore, which occurred on Monday, March 9th, 1931. For many months Mrs. Hill suffered from a wearying illness, which she bore with wonderful courage and fortitude, and those who knew her, and loved her, were not without hope that she would recover, as the good weather came round. This, however, was not to be. Her charming personality gained for her many friends, and she will be greatly missed. When her health permitted there was no one more willing than she to help in any effort connected with either Church or Sunday School, nor was she ever appealed to in vain. The funeral, which was private, took place on Wednesday, March 11th. Her brother-in-law, the Rev. Steele Rentoul, of Glasgow, officiating at the house, and the Rev. A. Davison, at the graveside.

BODEL-MACKENZIE BENEVOLENT FUND.

In presenting their Seventh Annual Report the Trustees desire to record the pleasure they feel in reporting that the full resources of the Fund have been expended in grants to deserving members of our congregations during the past year. They express their great regret that the Fund's present income will not permit the election of any new applicants. These congregations subscribed during the year:—Banbridge, £1 1s; Belfast (First) £15 19s; Holywood, £10. The Trustees commend the support of this Fund to other congregations. £50 was received from the estate of the late Miss Matilda Minnis of Dromore. There are thirty-six beneficiaries, five receive grants of £20, three of £15, and twenty-eight of £10 per annum. The Moravians at their settlement at Fairfield, Manchester, have a similar fund which has a Sisters' Home connected with it. Hon. Sec. —Rev. J. J. Magill, B A.; Hon. Treas.—Mr. W. McRobert; Asst. Sec.—Rev. D. J. Williams.

BIRTH.

CURRY—At the Sexton's Cottage, Ballyhemlin, March 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. Curry—a daughter.

DEATHS.

MAGILL—March 14th, 1931. at 4 Bramhill, Larne, Samuel Magill, aged 82 years. Interred at M'Garel Cemetery, Larne.

ROBINSON—February 7th, 1931, at Summerhill, Clough. Co. Down, Mrs. Samuel Robinson. Interred on Feb. 9th, in the family burying ground at Inch, near Downpatrick.

HEALING BY THE CHURCH.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Pray for one another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James V.—14.

REVIEW.

JESUS—LORD OR LEADER? By Frank Lenwood. Constable, 7/6.

This is a book which Ministers and thoughtful laymen should read, if they take any interest in the problem of the personality of Christ and his relation to God. The traditional view in the Christian Church has been to regard him as God the Son, the second person in a Trinity. The common usage has been to address him as Lord and to worship him as a superhuman being.

The author of the book, Mr. Frank Lenwood, is a Congregational Minister in London, who was brought up in the Orthodox doctrine and through the familar and vital Evangelical experience known as "giving himself to Christ." After education at Rugby and Oxford University, he came in close touch with the Student Christian Movement and its work. From 1901-1906 he was a tutor in the New Testament at Mansfield College, Oxford. Later, he became a Missionary in Northern India, which gave him understanding of the Eastern mind, and on his return to England in 1912, was called to be one of the two Foreign Secretaries of the London Missionary Society, which he served for many years. All this explains the sympathetic handling of Christian Doctrine and the denominating reverence for Christ and his work, although he adopts a Unitarian type of theology. A serious study of the New Testament in the light of his own inner religious experience has led him to give up a good deal of the miraculous in the story of the Master, and to recognise that the latter had not only intellectual, but certain moral limitations which make it impossible to worship him in place of God. Jesus is the eldest of many brethren who leads us to God, but God cannot give his glory to another and no man can be the complete and perfect revelation of the Father, Worship is for God alone, but still Jesus towers up as the leader the world needs, to obey and follow if we are to have the kingdom of heaven on earth. It is a fine book.

R.N.C.

REPORTS.

Templepatrick.—The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held here on the evening of the 5th March, there was a small gathering, the ladies prepared tea, after tea the Minister presided. The forthcoming Sunday School Conference to be held in Templepatrick, on first Saturday of June next, was discussed. It was arranged to give tea to the visitors on that day in the War Memorial Hall. There was also a discussion relative to the painting of the outside of the church. Other preliminary arrangements were made in view of the Conference. During the meeting Mr. David Reid was unanimously nominated for a place on the Committee of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association. At intervals during the evening Mr. Walter Reid introduced selections on the Gramophone. The meeting closed at 10 o'clock.

Comber.—The Annual Meeting was held on 24th February—the Right Hon. John M. Andrews in the chair—there was a large attendance of members, who were entertained to tea by the Right Hon. Lord Justice Andrews and Mrs. Andrews. The Hon. Secretary's report was read by Mr. F. J. Orr. This testified to the steady progress made in every department of church activity. The Right Hon. Lord Justice Andrews presented the Hon. Treasurer's report, which was considered very satisfactory. Mr. W. R. Martin presented the reports of the Incidental Fund and the Sunday School and Benevolent Funds. While there is still a deficit in the Incidental Fund—the Sunday School and Benevolent show a substantial credit balance. Mr. A. Orr submitted the report of Choir Fund—which is in a flourishing state—a large sum being invested in war loan. The Church

Committee and Officers were re-elected and thanked for their efficient services. Hearty thanks were also extended to the choir, the Choir-master, Mr. W. Munn; and the Organist, Miss Murphy; also to the Sunday School Teachers and to the Rev. J. G. Davies and Mrs. Davies. The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the prosperous state of the congregation and the happy and friendly spirit that pervaded their church life. He congratulated Mrs. J. K. Murphy on winning that week a double victory at the Belfast Musical Competitions, when she won, out of a large number of competitors, the Ulster Challenge Cup and the Belfast Cup. Mrs. Murphy is the wife of Dr. J. K. Murphy of Comber, and since she took up her residence in Comber some months ago, she has rendered valuable help to our choir and our various social gatherings. Mrs. Murphy very kindly presented the prizes to successful members of the church League of Loyalty. An interesting programme of music and recitations was enjoyed after the close of the business meeting.

All Souls' Church, Belfast.—The balance sheet for year ending December 31st, 1930, has been printed and circulated, and is an exceedingly interesting document revealing the good work being done by the congregation and the activities. Receipts during the year—£971 11s. 4d. Payments—£933 12s. 4d. We notice that the church debt has been reduced to almost half. The Badminton Club contributed £80, which is a very handsome donation. Collections have been taken for Domestic Mission, and for Nurses for Sick Poor. The statement is a model of perfect book-keeping. All Souls' as an ecclesiastical building is architecturally considered the finest in the whole denomination. In Belfast, it affords a type of worship which is unique, and which meets a real want. The glory of the Non-Subscribing Church is variety, and its ideal "Unity in diversity" [Ed.]

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast—The Calendar is very instructive and suitable for distribution and propaganda, and enables inquirers to realise the breadth of mind pervading such a congregation. A very fine syllabus of evening subjects is given, with a talk about the idea at the heart of the course: "The Needs of the Time." The agenda of Week-day Events is worthy of a church that is still alive, and the organisation is up-to-date. There is a special Secretary for the Envelope System of Weekly Contributions. [Ed.]

Belfast First Church Sunday School Prize Distribution.—This took place on February 27th, when the Central Hall was well filled with scholars, parents and friends. Mr. R. M'Crum the Superintendent of the school presided, the Minister gave a short address, and Mr. T. H. McMurray made the distribution of 46 prizes for attendance. Special prizes were awarded for full attendance to James Humphrie, Dora M'Cafferty, Helen M'Kee, Mary Robinson, Jack Robinson and Sam Robinson. The Superintendent presented a handbag to Miss Lizzie Parker, in the name of the school as a mark of appreciation of her services as a teacher. Thereafter, the Junior Dramatic Society, under the direction of Miss Nan Newman, with Mrs. Wm. Newman as accompanist, gave a "Dream of Nursery Rhymes" which was prettily staged and very creditably carried through. The rest of the evening was spent in games.

Cairncastle.—A grand Concert was held in Roywood Hall, on February 24th, organised by Mrs. Axon, a member of the church committee. Prominent artists from Belfast and Larne gave a first-class entertainment, consisting of solos and duets, vocal and instrumental, monologues and folk dancing. The large hall was filled to capacity and nearly four hundred people listened with rapt attention to the different items on the programme and by their enthusiastic applause testified to the merit of the performers. A Dance followed for which a good number of those present at the concert remained. Everybody was pleased with the entertainment, especially the Treasurer of the "Old Meeting House" congregation who received £20 5s. 6d. as the financial result of Mrs. Axon's effort. On March 1st, the Minister spoke of the great loss Unitarianism had suffered on the deaths of Rev. Alex. Gordon and Rev. G. J. Street, both men of learning and noble character and both a long record of faithful service in the interest of the denomination. They leave behind them, he said, an example of loyalty and devotion that will be a help to all those who knew them, to be loyal to in their liberal religious faith—hymns suitable to the occasion were sung. On 6th March, the Annual Sunday School Social was held. The order of proceedings was tea and programme of songs, recitations and verse speaking by the Sunday Scholars. There was a good attendance and the young people seemed to have a happy time.

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BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

——:●:——

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

——:●:——

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR J. H. GILLILAND,

35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.

MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec

19 Lime Street, Belfast

Crumlin.—The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Monday, 16th March. The attendance was disappointingly small, though the weather was favourable to the meeting. Another dozen would have been sufficient reward for the efforts of the ladies who provided the tea with which we parted. To accept any excuse for absence other than illness would be to place a mean value on the church and its affairs—see Luke 14-15-24. Apart from the usual formal business of Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, election of Committee and the usual votes of thanks, new business was begun. Arrangements were started for the holding of a flower service towards the end of June, to raise funds for the Centenary and General Church Funds, which sadly need building up before we can make any attempt to put our church property into decent repair. Arrangements are being made also to appoint trustees for the church property and to place the entire management and responsibility of it on their shoulders. At present no one in particular is responsible with bad results materially and spiritually. On the whole we are no worse off this year than in previous years, but the "search for something better" will never yield reward while we are content with the usual "balance in hand." It is no credit to a progressive institution.

Clough.—The Annual Social and distribution of prizes was held on February 6, in the Public Elementary Schoolroom, Clough. The room was crowded with members and friends. After tea, the Minister (Rev. James Shaw Brown) occupied the chair and in the course of a short address pointed out that the date of this social synchronised with the date of his settlement at Clough. It had been a year of rich experience among the warm-hearted religious folk of County Down, and he expressed the hope that in the second year he might find more ways of helping the cause at Clough. Mrs. J. Wilson, Aughlisnafin, afterwards presented the prizes to the scholars—twenty-seven in all. The teacher (Miss Mollie Hay) was warmly congratulated on the work of the year. Games and dancing followed.

Dromore.—The Annual Social and Prize Distribution, was held on the evening of February 20th. There was a large attendance of children, who, after a beautiful tea were joined by their parents. An enjoyable programme was contributed.. The Rev. A. Davidson in taking the chair, expressed the pleasure it gave him to see so many bright and cheery faces. They looked to the young people of to-day to make the Church of to-morrow and the fact that he saw before him so many children augured well, he thought, for the future of the congregation. In welcoming the parents of the scholars, he pointed out that the success, which he was sure they all wished for the Sunday School, could only be achieved as the parents of the children recognised the importance of sending the children to school regularly and punctually. The co-operation the parents had given in the past year had been a source of much encouragement to the teachers in their work and he hoped it would be given in still larger measure in the future. Later, the Chairman, who distributed the prizes, stated that there were over 100 scholars on the Roll, exclusive of members of the Bible Class and that of that number forty scholars were prize-winners. At the conclusion of the programme the hearty thanks of the meeting were accorded to the scholars, who had entertained the company so creditably, and special thanks were given to Miss M'Cormick and Miss Boal for the time and trouble they had given in training the children. By the kindness of a member of the congregation, each scholar was presented, on going home, with a bag of sweets.

Mountpottinger.—A Congregational Social was held in the Schoolroom, on Wednesday, March 4th, when there was a good attendance. The primary object of the gathering was the handing in of Envelopes containing contributions towards the Birthday Gift Fund, which was inaugurated to augment the Overdraft Extinction Fund, so generously started some months ago by Mrs. Hadow. A satisfactory result was reached as an outcome of the proceedings. Music and dancing helped to entertain the assembly, and refreshments were served by members of the Women's League. There will be many who recall the frequent visits to Belfast of Miss Dora Lewis during the time her sister (Mrs. Watkins) was associated with the congregation. They will regret to hear that Miss Lewis passed away on March 5th, at the Parsonage, Bryn, Wigan, from heart trouble, which first manifested itself only a little over four months ago when on a visit to her relatives in London.

Ah, come sit beside me by the sea, open and free.
I will tell thee of that inward calmness
As of the still deep,
Of that inward freedom
As of the skies;
Of that inward happiness
As of the dancing waters. K.